

Warwick School Committee Minutes

Open Session

Meeting of May 15, 2007

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at the Aldrich Jr. High School on May 15, 2007. Chairman Friel called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following in attendance:

COMMITTEE

Christopher Friel, Chairperson

Lucille Mota-Costa, Vice Chair

Bethany Furtado, Clerk

Joyce L. Andrade

Paul Cannistra

The Chair announced that this was the first of two evenings for superintendent interviews. At the end of the interview process, we will have questions from the public, and if anyone was interested in submitting a question, they could come forward and get an index card and return the question to Dr. Myers.

The first person to be interviewed was Robert H. White at 6:15 p.m. and the second candidate to be interviewed was Gene Chasin at 7:30 p.m. Both candidates were asked the following questions:

1. Chris: Tonight marks the first opportunity the public has had to

hear from you and learn about you – before we begin would you please tell us about yourself.

2. Beth: Why would you like to be superintendent in our district?

3. Joyce: How do you envision your first 90 days as Superintendent?

4. Paul: What role does fiscal responsibility play in your day to day operations technical skills and how well versed are you in finding creative ways to fund the necessities of a successful school department?

5. Lucille: could you share with us any experience you may have had with a successful staff assessment model.

6. Chris: This district has been somewhat notorious in terms of labor relations as it concerns collective bargaining units. What steps would you take as superintendent to avoid the protracted labor disputes that Warwick has faced in the past?

7. Beth: As you may be aware, Warwick's current superintendent has been an active participant and very visible in local and state affairs. What would your personal commitment be to this community?

8. Paul: What is your philosophy on budget creation/construction now and how has it evolved over time?

9. Lucille: What role do you feel technology should play in our students day to day classroom experience?

10. Joyce: based on your knowledge of our school system, what is your perception of our strengths and weaknesses?

During the interview process, there were additional questions presented to the candidates in response to their answers.

The questions addressed by Dr. Meyers (the moderator) to Mr. White were: Federal government and State government continue to mandate more and more regulations which require more and more paperwork for teachers, creating less and less time to teach. What is your position to these mandates? What would you say to a parent who wants to meet with you “today.” Please discuss literacy initiative which proved successful research and your past experience.

Some say superintendents are mere puppets of the School Committee. Please tell the School Committee what needs to be done to provide true leadership. Mr. White’s interview concluded at 7:15 p.m.

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The questions asked by Dr. Meyers to Mr. Chasin were: Federal government and State government continue to mandate more and more regulations which require more and more paperwork for teachers, creating less and less time to teach. What is your position to these mandates? What would you say to a parent who wants to meet with you “today?” Some say superintendents are mere puppets

of the School Committee. Are you ready, willing and able to think independently and make sure decisions are educationally sound? Would you consider restructuring central administration rather than cutting teachers or increasing class size? Mr. Chasin's interview concluded at 8:30 p.m.

The Chair announced that this was the conclusion of the first night of interviews. We will be interviewing two more candidates tomorrow night at the same time and place.

MOTION 2007-136: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mrs. Andrade, to adjourn.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

Meeting adjourned: 8:30 p.m.

Bethany Furtado, Clerk

Betsey Snipes, Secretary